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PATENT

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Katie Hales  
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**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/798,792

Attorney Docket: DP-309958

Filing Date: 03/11/2004

Group Art Unit: 3634

Applicant: Lloyd W. Rogers Jr., et al.

Examiner: Strimbu, Gregory J.

Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR PROVIDING A SLIDING DOOR MECHANISM

MS Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

**PROVISIONAL ELECTION**

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action mailed May 18, 2006, imposing a Restriction Requirement between:

Group I, claims 1-16 and 28, directed to a hinge assembly or drive assembly; and

Group II, claims 17-27, directed to method for providing a closing force to a sliding door.

In response to the Restriction Requirement, Applicant provisionally elects to prosecute Group I, claims 1-16 and 28. Nevertheless, Applicants respectfully traverse the requirement.

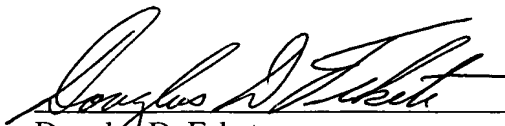
Claim 1, representative of Group I, is to a hinge assembly that includes, as key elements, a first hinge portion, a second hinge portion, a cable attachment and a guide surface. The claims of Group II concerns operation of a device that includes a first hinge portion, a second hinge portion, a cable and a guide surface. Thus, the groups of claims merely represent different

aspects of but a single invention. Moreover, prior art showing the hinge assembly, or the method, would be material to, and should properly be considered in examining all Groups, regardless of where such art is found within the classification scheme of the Patent Office. Efficiency, both on the part of Applicants, and also on the part of the Patent Office, mandates that, where the claims have common distinctive features such as here, all claims should be examined together. The Restriction Requirement unduly burdens Applicants by requiring them to file and prosecute multiple applications, and pay fees and maintain multiple patents, to obtain the patent protection to which they are entitled.

Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the Restriction Requirement be withdrawn, and that all claims of Group I and Group II be considered in the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees associated with this communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0831.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas D. Fekete", is written over a horizontal line.

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